

The Marriage of Esther to King Ahasuerus

“1 After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. 2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: 3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegai the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: 4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so. 5 Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; 6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter. 8 So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.” (Esther 2:1-8 KJV)

Esther had married the non-believer, King Ahasuerus, after he put aside his previous wife, queen Vashti. The degree that came out was from the king to gather all the fair virgins, *“2 Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: 3 And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace.” (Esther 2:2-3 KJV)* *“So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house.” (Esther 2:8 KJV)* So clear from the Scriptures, it was not her choice to marry a non-believer person, but she was forced to do it. She was chosen because she was young, fair and she had kept her virginity. Mordecai truly sheltered her and protected her to endorse her as a virgin to her husband. **Our young boys and girls need to be kept virgins till the date of their wedding.**

The marriage of Esther to that king took place because the people of God were under captivity and it was not in their hand to decide for themselves certain things especially they were under the authorities of non-believers. God disciplined His people for their idol worship by sending them to be subjects and slaves to other nations. That was God's punishment to them and the consequences of their sins. **We need to be aware now when we allow idol worship and idols of the worldly feasts and idols of the heart to be in the midst of us, then we should also be put under bondage and slave to people because of that sin, and we will be forced to do things that we are displeased to do,** as had happened now when Esther out of her control was chosen to be a wife for King Ahasuerus, who was a person not of the people of God, uncircumcised, and who was also with many sexual relationships with various women.

I am not here supporting and encouraging marriages with non-believers, as well as the story of Esther cannot be used as an example to support and justify marriages with non-believers, but I am here condemning idol worship and worldliness and all kinds of idolatry.

It was hateful to a Jewish woman to marry and sleep with a non-circumcised man. Esther bore that marriage with the full understanding of the critical situation that her nation was put under due to their widespread idol worship and as a nation with such sin being put under captivity. Even to the point, Esther was taught not to declare her nationality to avoid further persecution and abuse. God gave favor and grace to Esther in the eyes of King Ahasuerus for a certain purpose for God to fulfill in the life of His people, *“17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.” (Esther 2:17 KJV)*

The Greek book of Esther as a historical book wrote the prayer of Esther when she was commanded by Mordecai to go to the king. (Please note, I do not believe this book is part of the Bible although I do endorse it as a good source of Jewish history during the Silent Years.)

“29 Queen Esther also, being in fear of death, resorted unto the Lord: 30 And laid away her glorious apparel, and put on the garments of anguish and mourning: and instead of precious ointments, she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she humbled her body greatly, and all the places of her joy she filled with her torn hair. 31 And she prayed unto the Lord God of Israel, saying, O my Lord, thou only art our King: help me, desolate woman, which have no helper but thee: 32 For my danger is in mine hand. 33 From my youth up I have heard in the tribe of my family that thou, O Lord, tookest Israel from among all people, and our fathers from all their predecessors, for a perpetual inheritance, and thou hast performed whatsoever thou didst promise them. 34 And now we have sinned before thee: therefore hast thou given us into the hands of our enemies, 35 Because we worshipped their gods: O Lord, thou art righteous. 36 Nevertheless it satisfieth them not, that we are in bitter captivity: but they have stricken hands with their idols, 37 That they will abolish the thing that thou with thy mouth hast ordained, and destroy thine inheritance, and stop the mouth of them that praise thee, and quench the glory of thy house, and of thine altar, 38 And open the mouths of the heathen to set forth the praises of the idols, and to magnify a fleshly king for ever. 39 O Lord, give not thy sceptre unto them that be nothing, and let them not laugh at our fall; but turn their device upon themselves, and make him an example, that hath begun this against us. 40 Remember, O Lord, make thyself known in time of our affliction, and give me boldness, O King of the nations, and Lord of all power. 41 Give me eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion: turn his heart to hate him that fighteth against us, that there may be an end of him, and of all that are likeminded to him: 42 But deliver us with thine hand, and help me that am desolate, and which have no other help but thee. 43 Thou knowest all things, O Lord; thou knowest that I hate the glory of the unrighteous, and abhor the bed of the uncircumcised, and of all the heathen. 44 Thou knowest my necessity: for I abhor the sign of my high estate, which is upon mine head in the days wherein I shew myself, and that I abhor it as a menstruous rag, and that I wear it not when I am private by myself. 45 And that thine handmaid hath not eaten at Aman's table, and that I have not greatly esteemed the king's feast, nor drunk the wine of the drink offerings. 46 Neither had thine handmaid any joy since the day that I was brought hither to this present, but in thee, O Lord God of Abraham. 47 O thou mighty God above all, hear the voice of the forlorn and deliver us out of the hands of the mischievous, and deliver me out of my fear. 48 And upon the third day, when she had ended her prayers, she laid away her mourning garments, and put on her glorious apparel. 49 And being gloriously adorned, after she had called upon God, who is the beholder and saviour of all things, she took two maids with her: 50 And upon the one she leaned, as carrying herself daintily; 51 And the other

followed, bearing up her train. **52** And she was ruddy through the perfection of her beauty, and her countenance was cheerful and very amiable: but her heart was in anguish for fear. **53** Then having passed through all the doors, she stood before the king, who sat upon his royal throne, and was clothed with all his robes of majesty, all glittering with gold and precious stones; and he was very dreadful. **54** Then lifting up his countenance that shone with majesty, he looked very fiercely upon her: and the queen fell down, and was pale, and fainted, and bowed herself upon the head of the maid that went before her. **55** Then God changed the spirit of the king into mildness, who in a fear leaped from his throne, and took her in his arms, till she came to herself again, and comforted her with loving words and said unto her, **56** Esther, what is the matter? I am thy brother, be of good cheer: **57** Thou shalt not die, though our commandment be general: come near. **58** And so he held up his golden sceptre, and laid it upon her neck, **59** And embraced her, and said, Speak unto me. **60** Then said she unto him, I saw thee, my lord, as an angel of God, and my heart was troubled for fear of thy majesty. **61** For wonderful art thou, lord, and thy countenance is full of grace. **62** And as she was speaking, she fell down for faintness. **63** Then the king was troubled, and all his servants comforted her.” (The Greek Book of Esther 4:29-63) In the **43** statement, you can read the following: **43** Thou knowest all things, O Lord; thou knowest that I hate the glory of the unrighteous, and abhor the bed of the uncircumcised, and of all the heathen. Esther mentioned, “and abhor the bed of the uncircumcised”, to describe her disgusting feeling to have a union on the bed with a non-believer, and uncircumcised person. She did not marry that man because of her love for worldliness, or love of food, wine or other daintiness, as she confessed to God in the **45** and **46** statement: **45** And that thine handmaid hath not eaten at Aman's table, and that I have not greatly esteemed the king's feast, nor drunk the wine of the drink offerings. **46** Neither had thine handmaid any joy since the day that I was brought hither to this present, but in thee, O Lord God of Abraham. Esther had no delight in her marriage but she was only forced to do it. She did it as part of her obedience to submit to God’s discipline and not because of her desire to marry King Ahasuerus.

As Esther submitted herself to God’s will He used her to deliver His people the Israelites from the hand of Haman the Agagite who conspired to execute all the Jewish. When that conspiracy revealed Esther was willing to take the risk for her life when Mordecai rebuked her and commissioned her to do her part to speak to the king in order to save the Jewish: *“13 Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. 14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? 15 Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, 16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.”* (Esther 4:13-17 KJV) Esther here was willing to fast for three days without food or drink in order to appeal to God to give her favor in the presence of the king who was her husband to save her people the Jewish, and to have wisdom of how she will behave what she will speak and act before him. What she was doing was a Biblical thing. Period of prayer and fasting was needed during the marriage life to face the trials of life and as Paul instructed us, *“5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”* (1 Corinthians 7:5 KJV) Here marriage was her

ministry. After the three days of fasting Esther went to meet the king, *“1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. 3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom. 4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. 5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. 6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. 7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is; 8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.”* (Esther 5:1-8 KJV) Finally the vile Haman was put to death, *“1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom. 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.”* (Esther 7:1-9 KJV)

My dear and beloved: In preparation for Godly marriage God has a certain purpose for each and every marriage, not only for multiplication and to give reward to those who are faithful but to achieve His will and plan in the life of His church and His people.

The matching that we had seen in this message between Esther and King Ahasuerus was a strange matter. Esther was forced to do it, but behind that marriage was God who fulfilled His purpose and plan in the life of His people and His church. **Therefore in each and every situation of marriage, when God would speak we need to listen and we need to keep emotions and wishes aside, and seek God and seek His will about the purpose behind that particular matching and marriage and we need to obey God and execute His instruction so things will go smooth and on time.** The marriage between Esther and King Ahasuerus took place before the

starting of the conspiracy of Haman the Agagite, so when the conspiracy took place, God's people were ready with the solution that God beforehand had arranged for them to escape the wicked plan of the devil as they obeyed God. Their readiness was represented by the obedience of Mordecai who raised Esther in a Godly way and with training that she was ready for the mission that God would send her through that marriage. **Let us pray ...**

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that teaches me that I need to follow your purpose and your will in my life. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.*

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your idol worship and taking part in feasts offered to idols. Confess and renounce your selfishness, disobedience and your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to help others. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, especially in pertain to marriage. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers and fasting. Confess and renounce your non willingness to discipline your children and raise them in the fear of God. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to the teaching that I received in this message in pertain to the person whom I need to marry. Lord I commit myself to serve you and your purpose and plan in my life and in the life of my family and children. Lord I humble myself before you and be willing to set good example to others to follow. Lord uphold me with your grace and provide for me so I will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and humbled themselves before you and were willing to go through the mission that you are sending them to accomplish. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and lead them step by step to accomplish that mission. Devil I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, go away from their life and don't disturb them anymore in the name of Jesus. Lord protect them, remove obstacles from before them, give them favor before kings and authorities and fight for them their battles.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to teach and implement the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives. Lord I pray for more Godly marriages and Godly families to be formed. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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